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Chief, Technical Branch

4 November 1953

Dr. James H. Haddleson

Conference with [REDACTED] 4 November 1953.

1. As arranged, [REDACTED] was seen today at his office, [REDACTED]

2. It was his opinion that any approach by physical means that would do no lasting damage to emotional centers in the brain or elsewhere in the nervous system was impossible at this time. As a neuro-anatomist and neuro-pathologist, he doubted that any such approach, as by ultrasonics or other radiant energy, would ever be possible.

3. One should find, he believed, more numerous and more satisfactory drugs than the older morphin/sleepolamin combination, which would act selectively on specific nerve centers. Personally, he disclaimed knowledge of helpful leads; e.g., would not offer an opinion on whether the currently controversial lophenacin (hyenzin) was effective or not toward alleviating anxiety. He had no opinion to offer on Isoniazid. Among the more toxic drugs (he has written authoritatively on effects of cyanides), he did not expect useful developments.

4. [REDACTED] did suggest that we consult [REDACTED] of this City.

5. Although fully cooperative in a sense it was clear that [REDACTED] was uncomfortable. Certainly he would not care to be consulted again in this matter — quite the opposite of enthusiastic, encouraging and interested.

6. As to [REDACTED] who is associated with the [REDACTED] psychiatry, which — to me — right mean an undesirable ideology.

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The discussion with [REDACTED] was limited to the subj. of curare-like agents. Crude curare is obtained by brewing roots, bark, etc. of several species of So. Am. plants. It contains powerful alkaloids and is used by certain So. Am. tribes as an arrow poison. An individual or animal struck by such a poisoned arrow is rapidly rendered helpless due to paralysis of the skeletal muscles. Purified curare and chemicals having a curare-like action are used to some extent in medicine, when it is desired to produce a relaxation of the skeletal muscles without the prod. of anesthesia or the production of central nervous system paralysis.

Several investigators mentioned who are active in synthesizing or testing compounds of the curare type: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The work of these and other men is described in the book "Curare and Anti-Curare Agents" published by the N.Y. Academy of Science.

H-B/6

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HUR, 26 Feb 52, [REDACTED]

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TAKEN FROM [REDACTED]

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